IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
	)	
David Wyatt	)	
	)	
Serial No. 09/966,519	)	Group Art: not assigned
	)	
Filed: September 28, 2001	)	Examiner: not assigned
	)	
For: Method and Apparatus for Signaling User	)	
Initiated Hot-Key Switch Control		

Commissioner of Patents
Box Non-Fee Amendment
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir,

Before consideration and examination of the above-referenced patent application, please enter the following amendment. A clean version of the amended paragraphs is shown on the following pages. A marked-up version of the amended paragraphs is shown in Appendix A.

Clean Version of Amended Paragraphs

At paragraph [0015] on pages 5-6:

In the shown example of Figure 1, the system management mode firmware 120 responds to an occurrence of a hot-key event by generating a trigger to the interrupt

generation logic 103. That is, the hot-key event initiates an interrupt trigger as a driver event and the interrupt generation logic 103 of the graphics controller 101 generates an interrupt in response to the trigger. The hot-key trigger causes the interrupt generation logic 103 to generate a user interrupt to the driver 110, which then results in the driver 110 obtaining ownership of a hot-key control action (e.g. such as display switch, brightness control, panel fitting, audio volume or other Hot-Key) through a software flag of unit 102. That is, the appropriate driver 110 performs the control action. Accordingly, the display switching initiated by a hot-key event is handled by the display driver 110, instead of strictly by the video BIOS in the system management mode. One embodiment to perform the functionality of the apparatus shown in Fig. 1 is further illustrated in Fig. 2.

At the Abstract on page 23

A co-operative firmware and driver-based mechanism, in which a device driver obtains control, performs and completes some action that was initiated by a system hot-key.

Respectfully submitted,

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